

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05926 031249Z

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 SCI-06 AGR-20 EA-11

EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 SWF-02 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-08

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 1249

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE, IN, TH

SUBJECT: ECAFE MEETING ON POPULATION

REF: STATE 086753

1. EMBOFFS BRIEFLY SAW FAMILY PLANNING COMMISSIONER S. GREWAL TO DISCUSS TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL. THE GOI DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE REVISED US DRAFT OF THE UN SECRETARIAT PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE.

2. THE INDIANS ARE ALREADY INTEGRATING FAMILY PLANNING WITH HEALTH MOTHER AND CHILD CARE AND NUTRITION. THE GOALS FOR REDUCING THE BIRTH RATE ARE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE INCLUDED BY THE GOI IN THE DRAFT FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, IF A BIRTH RATE OF 25 PER THOUSAND IS REALISTIC FOR INDIA BY 1985, SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN THAT UP TO 50 PERCENT OF FERTILE COUPLES WOULD BE PRACTICING SOME FORM OF CONTRACEPTION. NOW ONLY 15 PERCENT OF COUPLES ARE FAMILY PLANNING ACCEPTORS. THE GOALS FOR CUTTING OVERALL POPULATION GROWTH IN LDCS

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05926 031249Z

SIMILARLY SEEM UNREALIZABLE.

3. WE EXPECT THAT THE INDIANS WILL FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS OF MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION AT THE CONFERENCE. INDIA MAY USE THE CONFERENCE AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR A PROPOSAL TO LIMIT EMIGRATION OF PROFESSIONALS, ESPECIALLY DOCTORS, TO BRITAIN AND THE US.

4. THE GOI DOES NOT ENTIRELY AGREE WITH OUR DESIRE TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE ON SPECIFIC FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES. THEY WOULD RATHER THAT THIS BE DISCUSSED IN OVERALL CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE EXPECT THE INDIANS WILL TRY TO PREVENT THE CONFERENCE FROM WANDERING OFF INTO GENERALITIES. MOYNIHAN

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